

EXPENSIVE AND BAD.

A Reform in Household Furnishings Is
Saidly Needed.

"Too little furniture is bad, but too much, it seems to me, is a good deal worse," said a jaded housekeeper. "My life is literally worn out with moving and putting in order and caring for the thousand and one articles of doubtful ornamentation and absolute uselessness with which the house is cumbered. I think that an ornament must have some excuse for being in order to be really worth the time and trouble required to take care of it. Instead of this we have representations of all sorts of quaint and queer things that appear to me to have no right whatever in the drawing-room or parlor. A cabinet with shelves might be placed in either of these rooms and filled with articles appropriate to the apartments. But how often do we find every sort of curio from the horrible and grotesque to the realistic and most indecent arranged in reception and family rooms. Of course, where space is limited one must do the best one can, but all the same there are many bits of bric-a-brac that would be much more agreeable if less prominently exhibited. To jumble Indian, Chinese, Japanese and all manner of articles into one place and in such close proximity that they continually elbow each other, is like colonizing the different sorts of people under the same roof and compelling them to live there whether they will or no. The incongruity after a while becomes painful and it seems as though, in their own way, the articles would quarrel with one another as violently as would the human specimens of the same species were they thus crowded in together. And what is true of bric-a-brac is equally true of furniture. The fancy for odd pieces sometimes runs absolutely riot, and brings about the collection of a heterogeneous assortment of furnishings that, however fine they may be individually, are an offense and a weariness when they must be endured collectively. Fewer articles, chosen and arranged on a well-defined plan and with the most scrupulous regard for one another, are the most satisfactory to an artistic taste than the choicest miscellaneous collection that the gathering mania ever brought together under one roof."—N. Y. Ledger

NOT A SINGLE CITIZEN.

Town Running Full Blast with the Office All Filled.

An English journalist traveling through the United States related a humorous incident in his experience out west. He was journeying overland on horseback, and one day, after a long spell of desolate travel, he espied a house on the prairie. He rode up to the doorway and accosted the only person around, a long gentleman in boots, these boots seemingly trying to reach the sky, they were perched so high above the owner's head. They came slowly down at the salutation. "Howdy do, stranger? Glad ter see yer. This is Boonville," and with a sweeping gesture he compassed a landscape of grass and wooden stakes. "There's Broadway runnin' down 'tween the stakes, and there's Chicago avenue, St. Louis avenue, St. Paul avenue, and all them are streets staked off'n it. On the lookout for a buildin' site?"

"No," replied the journalist, "I'm just traveling for pleasure, not for investment."

"That's my luck, stranger. Here's this town been er runnin' full blast with all the offices filled, and I can't get a citizen."

"Where's the mayor?"

"I'm the mayor."

"Where are the police, judges and that sort of thing?"

"I'm all that. Yer see, stranger, I'm everything. I elects myself to all offices, but it's mighty poor payin' ones I'm er-holdin'."

"How do you manage to get along then?"

"Don't, stranger; that's the puzzle. Yer see, there's only 50 cents in the town treasury, and I've been payin' my rent and taxes with it, and collecting my salary as mayor and all my other offices from it so long and it's been handled so much that the town books won't balance any more. Yer see, I can't find anything to balance the books with fer the wear of the silver off that coin and I'm out that much. Now, stranger, if yer not goin' ter invest, and want ter boom the town er little, yer might make up that deficit in the treasury, so's I kin balance them books and make things square fer the next mayor."—Harper's Round Table.

Now Is the Best Time.

Growing girls do not always appreciate that it is while they are growing that they are forming their figures for after life. Drooping the shoulders a little more every day, dropping the head as one walks, standing unevenly, so that one hip sinks more than the other—all these defects, easily corrected now, will be five times as hard in ten years, and 25 times as hard in ten years. A graceful, easy carriage and an erect, straight figure are a pleasure to behold and a possession.—Albany Argus.

Glazed Sweet Potatoes.

Select potatoes of uniform size, pare and cut into long oval shape. Cook in boiling salted water until nearly tender. Mix one-fourth cupful of sugar with one-fourth cupful of butter and melt in one-half cupful of hot water. Arrange the potatoes in a granite ware pan. Moisten with the sugar mixture. Set them into the oven and bake until covered with a rich brown glaze, but do not let them burn.—Good House-keeping.

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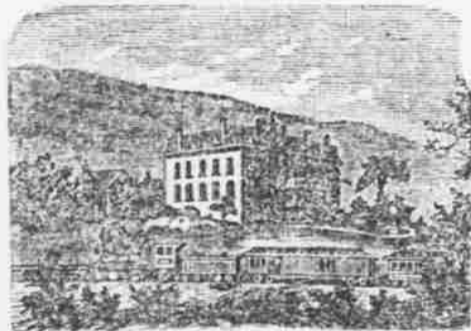
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